

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SIG-02 INRE-00 USIE-00
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O P 270020Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
OAU COLLECTIVE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 094182

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT BRIEFING - ZAIRE - APRIL 26, 1977

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS CONCERNING ZAIRE FROM DEPARTMENT BRIEFING APRIL 26.

2. Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY REPORT FROM ZAIRE? ARE THE ZAIRIAN FORCES TAKING BACK SOME OF THE TERRITORY THAT WAS LOST AND, TWO, HAVE WE HAD ANY COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING THEIR DISPLEASURE AND UMHAPPINESS OVER OUR LACK OF IMMEDIATE MILITARY LETHAL AID?

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRESS REPORTS ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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CORRECT INSOFAR AS THE RETAKING OF MUTSHATSHA WERE (SIC) CONCERNED.

INSOFAR AS AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FROM ZAIRE ABOUT OUR FAILURE TO SEND LETHAL WEAPONS TO THEM IS CONCERNED, I KNOW OF NO SUCH OFFICIAL COMPLAINT.

3. Q. DOES THE -- LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. SOME PEOPLE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE RAPID RE-TAKING OF MUTSHATSHA MIGHT SUGGEST THAT THERE WAS NEVER REALLY MUCH OF AN INVASION IN THE FIRST PLACE.

DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY VIEWS ON THAT? (LAUGHTER.)

A. I TOLD YOU EARLIER THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE DAY TO DAY FLUCTUATIONS ON THE BATTLEGROUND, AND TO GIVE A SERIOUS ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT THE INVASION BY FORCES STRIKING FROM OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF ZAIRE WAS A SERIOUS MATTER AND THAT IT POSED A THREAT TO THE INTEGRITY OF THAT NATION WHICH STILL SO-VIEWED THE INVASION.

4. Q. ONE OF THE WIRE SERVICES REPORTS TODAY THAT -- I AM NOT SURE WHETHER IT WAS A THIRD OR A HALF OF ANGOLA IS ACTUALLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES. I AM NOT SURE THAT GOES TO DAY TO DAY COMBAT OR NOT. BUT, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. YES. I SAW THE STORY.

I DON'T HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ON THAT. I SAW THE STORY SO LATE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT EVEN IF WE HAD SOMETHING I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO REQUEST IT. BUT, I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING ON THAT.

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5. Q. DIDN'T WE HAVE ANY CONTACT THAT YOU KNOW OF WITH SAVIMBI AND HAS SAVIMBI IN THE ESTIMATION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTED FOR THE EVACUATION, APPARENT EVACUATION OF MANY OF THESE KATANGAN AND NON-CUBAN FORCES?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT AT ALL.

6. Q. NOTHING AT ALL? YOU DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE HAD ANY CONTACT WITH SAVIMBI?

A. NO. I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
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